

The Red Dress Project is Coming to Bridport

Margery Hookings highlights a Global Celebration of Women's Creativity and Craft set for Bridport in 2027

The internationally acclaimed Red Dress Project is set to arrive in Bridport, bringing together artistry, heritage, and a powerful celebration of women's contributions from around the world. The remarkable dress will be on display at Bridport Town Hall from 31 July to 15 August 2027 in an exhibition run by Bridport Heritage Forum.

Theresa Weller, textile enthusiast and coordinator for the event, said: 'Bridport is set to welcome this extraordinary piece of living history, and we anticipate it will be a highlight of the summer calendar.'

The Red Dress Project was conceived by British artist Kirstie Macleod as a collaborative artwork showcasing the creativity of women globally.

Since its inception, women from all walks of life—craftswomen, textile artists, volunteers, and community members—have contributed their skills, creating a dress that tells countless personal and cultural stories through embroidery, patchwork, and textile art.

The dress has toured extensively, visiting venues across the UK and internationally. Each exhibition has drawn large crowds and generated interest in the craft and stories behind it. When it was displayed at Killerton House in Devon, it attracted record numbers of visitors, demonstrating the universal appeal of this unique artwork.

The project is not only an artistic endeavour but also a social initiative. The women who contribute to the Red Dress Project are compensated when it is exhibited, providing financial support to them and their communities. This model ensures the project has a tangible, positive impact, celebrating women's creativity while helping sustain livelihoods.

Bridport residents and visitors are encouraged to mark their calendars. Local businesses, particularly those in hospitality, should prepare for an influx of visitors.

Said Theresa Weller: 'This major exhibition is a cultural highlight and a significant event for the town, offering a unique opportunity to experience the skill, collaboration, and creativity of women from around the world.'

'The Red Dress Project is more than just a dress—it's a global story of collaboration, heritage, and artistic expression.'

The Red Dress Project will be at Bridport Town Hall, Bridport, Dorset from 31 July – 15 August 2027. Admission is Free.

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